

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 313254

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

, PRC MILITARY AID TO BOTSWANA?

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A GOVERNMENT SOURCE HAS INFORMED EMBASSY GABORONE THAT BOTSWANA HAS AGREED TO ACCEPT CHINESE MILITARY AID TO HELP PROTECT AGAINST RHODESIAN BORDER INCURSIONS. THE SOURCE SAID SEVENTY TONS OF CHINESE WEAPONS AND "NOT MORE THAN A HALF-DOZEN ADVISORS" WERE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE "ANY DAY."

EMBASSY COMMENT: DESPITE OFFICIAL DENIALS, THERE IS GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT BOTSWANA MAY HAVE ACCEPTED SUCH A PRC OFFER. FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S PERSPECTIVE, CHINESE
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PAGE 02 STATE 313254

AID WOULD:

--SILENCE OPPOSITION CRITICS WHO CLAIM THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT PROTECTING BOTSWANA'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY;

--HELP KEEP SOVIET INFLUENCE TO A MINIMUM; AND

--ENABLE BOTSWANA TO OBTAIN NEEDED ARMS AT NO COST.
(CONFIDENTIAL) GABORONE 2386, 12/29.

2. KUWAIT UNHAPPY OVER OPEC AFTERMATH

DURING AMBASSADOR MAESTRONE'S CALL ON DECEMBER 27,
KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER SABAH EXPRESSED HIS DISSATIS-
FACTION WITH THE AFTERMATH OF THE OPEC MINISTERIAL.
SABAH SAID:

--KUWAIT HAD GONE TO THE MEETING PLEDGED TO AN
INCREASE OF NO MORE THAN 10 PERCENT.

--THE TWO STEP INCREASE AGREED UPON BY THE OPEC
ELEVEN HAD KEPT THAT PLEDGE, SINCE THE SECOND
INCREASE MIGHT NOT TAKE PLACE.

--YET KUWAIT WAS BEING BLAMED FOR ITS ROLE IN
NEGOTIATING THE TWO STEP COMPROMISE.

SABAH ALSO SAID HE WAS DISMAYED BY THE SAUDI TACTIC OF
TRYING TO DICTATE TO THE OTHER OPEC MEMBERS.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: SABAH WAS GREATLY CONCERNED THAT
KUWAIT WOULD BE GROUPED AMONG THE MORE GREEDY OPEC
MEMBERS SUCH AS IRAN, IRAQ AND LIBYA. IT MAY BE POSSIBLE
TO CONVINCE KUWAIT TO OPPOSE THE FURTHER 5 PERCENT
INCREASE IN JULY, PARTICULARLY IF SAUDI ARABIA, AS SABAH
SEEMS TO BELIEVE, IS WILLING TO RAISE ITS PRICE INCREASE
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PAGE 03 STATE 313254

TO 10 PERCENT. (CONFIDENTIAL) KUWAIT 5962, 12/28.

3. BHUTTO CONCLUDES FRIENDLY VISIT WITH SHAH

THE PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR HAS TOLD CHARGE MIKLOS THAT
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SHAH AND PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO
CONTINUE TO BE "MILK AND HONEY" FOLLOWING THE LATTER'S
"PRIVATE" VISIT TO IRAN DECEMBER 26-27. THE AMBASSADOR
SAID:

--BOTH RULERS SPECULATED ON U.S. POLICIES UNDER THE
NEXT ADMINISTRATION, AND HOPED CONSTRUCTIVE SIGNS
WOULD BE FORTHCOMING SOON.

--IRAN WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE PAKISTAN WITH
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, AND PROBABLY WILL PROVIDE
100,000 TONS OF OIL FREE OF CHARGE. (CONFIDENTIAL)
TEHRAN 12855, 12/29.

ROBINSON

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